(d) No. (Please see answer to (b).

(e) (i) District Superintendent of Police, Trichur, Inspector of Police, Trichur Cusba, Mr. Pappali and his staff and the C. I. B. Inspector Mr. Govindan Nayar.

(ii) From 2—1—1110 to 26—4—1110 the case was investigated by the Cusba Inspector and his staff when the C. I. B. Inspector was put in charge of the investigation along with the Cusba Inspector who investigated it till 16—7—1110, when the investigation was again left to the hands of the Cusba Inspector who made further investigation till 23—10—1110.

(f) None.

(g) Verified the investigation by visiting the scene of occurence and interviewing some of the witnesses.

(h) 4 days.

(i) The case was referred as undetectable.

Pay, travelling allowance and pension—total amount paid to officers in the State in 1110.

281. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the total amount distributed as pay to the Officers in the State in 1110;

(b) the amount paid as T. A.;

(c) the amount paid as pension in 1110?

Mr. P. V. Subramania Ayyar.—(a) Rs. 27,78,223-0-4.

(b) Rs. 1,60,489-11-3.

(c) Rs. 3,83,085-2-10.

(Represents pension including gratuity and compassionate gratuity).

Article in Hindu under the caption "Carriers not Insurers, interesting Cochin Decision".

282. Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article appeared in the Hindu of the 22nd November 1935 under the heading "Carriers not Insurers, Interesting Cochin Decision"?

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Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Is it not due to the insufficiency of water in the backwater that the accident happened?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It was the time of low tide and the launch could not be brought alongside the jetty. Therefore a plank had to be put and the plank moved sidewise and that caused the accident.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—May I know whether the insufficiency of water was brought to the notice of the Government by the Ferry Authorities?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There was a petition from the ferry contractors that there is some deficiency of water. But if proper precautions had been taken, there would have been no accident.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—May I know what precautions were taken by the Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is not in such a dangerous condition as to necessitate urgent action. We have to consult the Harbour authorities and we have also to look to our financial condition.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder.—Has not the Government promised to dredge these parts?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—As far as I remember, the Government did not give any definite promise. On the contrary we have always been saying that any amount of dredging may not improve matters.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Is the Government of opinion that the deficiency of water near the jetty is not harmful to the passengers?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I admit it is causing considerable inconvenience. But it is not dangerous.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder.—Is it not possible to extend the jetty?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I must consult.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Is it not due to negligence that the accident took place?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There was no negligence on the part of the Government.

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Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Is it not mentioned in the Judgment of the Hon'ble Munsiff that the Ferry people requested the P. W. D. to do the needful in the matter and that as the boat was too low a plank was put and due to some negligence the plank gave room and the accident happened?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I have no information.

Mr. M. V. Cherian.—Are the Government aware that the passengers who go to the Ernakulam Ferry Jetty don't get the boat? They have to look to the whistle and then run up hurriedly to the Huzur Jetty. Are these things brought to the notice of the Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Government are aware that there is a certain amount of inconvenience caused by the silting up of the backwaters near the jetties.

Mr. M. V. Cherian.—Will the Government take speedy steps at least to dredge these portions of the backwaters?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—If we dredge these parts it would be silted up again very soon.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder.—Will the Government consider the question of extending the jetty?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—This question was once taken up by the Harbour Engineer-in-Chief and he was of opinion that it has got to be extended by about 1000 feet. We are now on the thresh-hold of having a bridge between Ernakulam and Mattancherri. So we thought that it would not be wise to make this move.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder.—What will be the cost, please?

Mr. President.—I think 1000 feet will cost some Rs. 500.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder.—Will it cost more than Rs. 500 to dredge these parts?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is not for dredging alone. To deposit the soil it will be very difficult.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Is it not possible to extend the Mattancherri jetty?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I will consider.

Mr. M. V. Cherian.—As an experimental measure it may be done at Ernakulam.

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In Ernakulam we have done an experiment and it was not successful.

Mr. M. V. Cherian.—How many years ago was it done?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon—About four years ago.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.—Is it not better to have some better dredger than the present one? At present it is only dredging our Treasury. Will the Government be kind enough to have a dredger which can be of help to the public and the Government?

Auction sale—Karupadanna Market.

283. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) who was the highest bidder in the last Karupadanna market auction;

(2) did not the highest bidder in the public auction deposit 3 months' kist as required by the rules;

(3) whether the Government gave the contract to any other man;

(4) if so, (a) what are the reasons for the same;

(b) whether the original contractor was given information of the change before it was made;

(c) whether he has preferred any complaint against this action of the Government and what, if any, are the orders passed on the same?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—(1) Mr. P. K. Moideen.

(2) No. Only one month's kist in advance.

(3) Yes.

(4) (a) It was suspected to be owing to the undue influence exerted by Mr. P. K. Moideen over other bidders at the time of the auction that the bid amount did not rise above Rs. 700. Government therefore rejected his bid and accepted the higher offer of Rs. 750 from another.

(b) It was not considered necessary.

(c) Yes. He was told that nothing could be done to him.

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